

A meeting of the New Hampshire Water Well Board was held on October 19, 2007 at 9:00 AM, in rooms 112 & 113, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03302.

Present were: Bart Cushing, Chairman

Rene Pelletier, Secretary

Board members: David Wunsch, Peter Caswell, Jeffrey Tasker, Christopher Covell, and Thomas Garside

DES staff: Rick Schofield, and Suzanne Picone

Chairman Cushing brought the meeting to order at 9:01 AM and introduced the Board and staff members.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Pelletier and seconded by Mr. Covell, the Board unanimously voted to accept the Minutes of the August 17, 2007 meeting.

Old Business

HB 459 : Well Identification

New amendments to this bill will require well drillers to include GPS coordinates, street address, and tax map and lot number on each well completion report. Technical well drillers constructing monitoring wells will also need to complete the reports for monitoring well construction. Location sketches are also required should more than one well be drilled, or previously exist on a property. A site map will be required when technical drillers only report the deepest well in a monitoring well network on a property. These changes are scheduled to come into effect 12/8/07.

Mr. Schofield shared with the Board that one of three public seminars by the NH Geological Survey had taken place at DES in Concord on 10/11/07. Designed to teach contractors the basics of GPS, this seminar provided it's attendees with a copy of the new law, the new interim well completion report, and allowed some practice with a GPS unit. Mr. Schofield noted that the turnout could have been better, but Mr. Pelletier asserted to him that there were similar classes held last year which could have accounted for a bulk of contractors not attending. The next two seminars are going to be held on 10/23/07 in Keene, and 10/25/07 in Lancaster.

Since evaluations were taken from those who attended the first seminar, a few topics were brought up for the Board's review. Firstly, would this GPS seminar qualify for license renewal credits? To reward involvement with state matters, the Board agreed unanimously to allow this seminar to count as continuing education hours. Secondly, is the property owner's name mandatory on the well completion reports, or is it allowed that the contractor's name be reported? Over some discussion, the Board concluded that the law is not debatable, and the property owner's name must reflect who legally owns the land. Lastly, what is the recommendation, should the GPS unit have difficulty gathering coordinates from the satellites? Due to inclement weather or surroundings that may interfere, such as buildings, it's suggested that the GPS points be taken where the unit will read. Then, coordinates can be estimated from the distance away from the well location. Contractors should record the distance and

direction from the well to the alternate location where coordinates were obtained, and record the information on the well completion report.

In closing, the Board briefly discussed a matter of the 911 Street Address Guides. Mr. Schofield informed the Membership that some towns in NH may not have a completed 911 address guide as described in the new law, however, the street address may still be available by contacting the town building inspectors office. The Membership discussed the provision in the law that provides an exemption from reporting an address, if the address is not publicly available on the date the well completion report is filed.

Previous Complaints

Charles Wojcik / Phil Brien Water Wells

This matter was first reviewed by Rick Schofield on June 6th, 2007 when Charles Wojcik first filed a complaint against David Brien, from Phil Brien Water Wells. Due to a severe sediment problem, Mr. Wojcik was left without a working well. The Board had reviewed the violations and gave advice on a settlement that the old well was to be abandoned, and a new well constructed according to the original contract specifications. In addition, the cost of a new pump would be split evenly between the two parties.

After a brief review by Mr. Schofield, the Board invited Mr. Wojcik to the table to discuss the progress of his new well. Mr. Wojcik expressed his uncertainty to the status of his new well's construction, and concern that the well had not been constructed to date.

Mr. Garside then pointed out that Mr. Brien stated in the contract that he would begin drilling once the signed contract was received. Mr. Wojcik informed the Board that he had not signed the contract. The Membership suggested that the contract was awaiting Mr. Wojcik's signature, and that may be the reason why drilling couldn't commenced. Mr. Wojcik signed the contract before the Board.

Chairman Cushing noted to the Board members that if sand is encountered again because of natural geological configurations, than Mr. Brien would not be held responsible. Mr. Covell then offered his presence during the drilling as a member of the public to ensure the construction of a proper seal and to log the hole. Mr. Wunsch also mentioned that Mr. Brien was directed to notify DES of the scheduled drilling for monitoring purposes. Mr. Wojcik left with the signed contract to deliver it to Mr. Brien; a copy was kept for DES records.

New Complaints

Marie Worthen / Hartley Industries Inc.

Mr. Schofield reviewed the complaint filed against Hartley Industries Inc., by Marie Worthen. There were non-coliform bacteria found in the first water test. Ms. Worthen had tried to contact Hartley Industries on several occasions but she had not received a response and subsequently filed the complaint. Mr. Schofield reported that he had conducted a site visit and the previous owner had owned horses as indicated by a barn and corral in the yard. Mr. Hartley called Ms. Worthen after receiving a copy of the complaint and encouraged her to call him if the problem persisted.

A second water quality test had been conducted and indicated that bacteria were not present. Ms. Worthen then sent a letter withdrawing her complaint stating that the matter had been resolved. The Board reviewed the matter and noted it as closed.

Paula Philbrook / Skillings & Sons Inc.

Mr. Schofield informed the Board that the office had received a letter from Paula Philbrook stating that she did not wish to pursue the complaint and requesting the complaint be removed from the agenda. Mr. Schofield read the letter for the Membership. The Board closed the matter.

Rules

Amendments to Env-C 616.02 (e)

Mr. Schofield informed the Membership he has submitted the Board's proposed rules to Gretchen Hamel, the DES Legal Unit Administrator, for review. He has also submitted amendments to the administrative fine rules previously approved by the Board for review. Mr. Schofield reminds the Board that Env-C 616.02 (e), which makes reference to We 801 of the Board's reporting requirement, addresses water wells specifically. He suggested that this rule also needs to reflect monitoring wells listed in We 802, so they too would apply to administrative fines now that technical drillers are required to submit well completion reports to the board. The Board approved the amendment.

In addition, Mr. Schofield makes mention to the Board that the Rules of the Water Well Board are set to expire June of 2008. The Board is awaiting attorney Hamel's review of the amendments that have been addressed in past meetings. The Board asked Mr. Pelletier to follow-up with attorney Hamel to ensure the review is completed in time to initiate the rulemaking.

Licensing

New Applicants

Applicant David J. Quagliaroli, of Dragin Geothermal Well Drilling, applied for a Pump Installer's License. Chairman Cushing noted that Mr. Quagliaroli's pumping experience would need clarity because his main expertise was in drilling. The Board also questioned the license numbers given in the references attached to his application. These existing driller license numbers seemed to be misunderstood for the Massachusetts driver's license numbers. The Board decided to invite Mr. Quagliaroli to the next board meeting to discuss his pump experience as well as to provide any of his reference's driller license numbers.

The Board reviewed the pump installer license application of George C. Daniels of WaterTech Pump & Filter LLC. The Membership discussed an issue regarding its proposed rules requiring an applicant to include a reference from a former employer, and no references can be made by family members. One of Mr. Daniels references was submitted by his father, Gary Daniels of Daniels Artesian Wells, who was also his employer. Under the proposed rules, this reference would be disqualified. Chairman Cushing commented that an exception would need to be made because the reference is a viable employer reference. After some discussion with Chip Mackey, Licensing Coordinator at DES, there was a unanimous vote to approve George C. Daniels application, and allow him to take the license exam.

The Board noted that the applications filed by Robert B. Mann and Matthew R. Schneck were incomplete. Mr. Mackey informed the Board that Steven Schwed was also expected to come in to request the Board to consider his license application, however, he had informed him that the matter would be considered later in the day, as the Board was ahead of schedule.

Roth Artesian Well Company

Mr. Schofield informed the Board that Charles Roth had recently come in to the office and requested his dug well license, which he once held, to be re-instated. In 1984 he received a license for Rotary, Cable tool, and Dug wells. His license was suspended in 1988 for failure to submit well completion reports. When the Board voted to re-issue his license that year, the certificate did not include the Dug well component. The following year, he indicated on his license renewal form that he wanted his Rotary and Dug well licenses renewed, however the Dug well component was never renewed. Mr. Schofield asked the Board for its review.

Upon motion by Mr. Pelletier and seconded by Mr. Tasker, the Board voted unanimously to correct the 1988 certificate error and to include Rotary, Cable Tool, and Dug wells on Mr. Roth's license certificate.

A motion was also made by Mr. Wunsch to send a letter asking Mr. Roth to use diligence when filling out forms regarding license renewals. The Motion was seconded by Pelletier, and approved by majority vote. Mr. Garside was opposed.

New Business

Pump Settings on Ridged Pipe

At the August 17, 2007 meeting, the Board reviewed calculations presented by Mr. Schofield on polyethylene pipe depth settings. He created data tables to include pressure limits at ambient water temperatures using manufacturer correction factors to account for NH ambient water temps of 54 degrees F. Mr. Caswell and Steve Smith, a guest from Smith Pump, had also been asked to provide manufacturers research since the last meeting.

Mr. Caswell distributed a PVC pipe rating sheet from the manufacturer CertainTeed to the Membership. The data listed both Schedule 80 PVC piping and Schedule 120 piping. This information was based on water temperatures at 73.4 degrees F. With the help of Steve Smith, also present at this meeting, samples of Schedule 40 & 80 pipe were passed around.

The Board discussed the information to compare with Mr. Schofield's calculations presented at the last meeting. Mr. Roger Skillings, also attending the meeting, noted that wire weight may have some effect on the maximum depth settings of the pipe. Mr. Tasker noted that the weak point is the threading of each pipe connection. Chairman Cushing also commented that a higher density pipe would need to be used at the joint-connection to compensate for the weakness of the threading. Mr. Smith provided manufacturer data sheets for the Board's files.

Securing Liner Casing in Boreholes

Mr. Schofield explained that he had received an inquiry regarding the Board's rules for securing 4 inch liner casings associated with the installation of Jaswell seals and shale packers. The inquiry was

prompted as a result of a Jaswell Seal installation where the 4 inch liner was secured to the pitless adaptor with pump wire. When the service technician tried to remove the pump from the well he had to cut the pump wire. When the wire was cut, the Jaswell seal slipped down the well.

The Board concluded that there are no recommendations other than those provided by the manufacturer of the equipment used.

Other Well Laws

Mr. Schofield brought the Board's attention to several existing state laws pertaining to wells; RSA 485:33 through RSA 485:35 and RSA 485:37 & :38. RSA 485:37 requires wells within 500 feet of a dwelling or within 200 feet of any highway to have a secure cover that can withstand at least 1,000 pounds and secured so that it cannot be easily removed by children. Wells that remain open must be surrounded by a substantial fence or protection, so constructed that no child can crawl through or under it. RSA 485:33 provides that whenever a well is suspected of being polluted or dangerous to health, a town's health officer has the authority to investigate through a water test, at no cost to the owner. If the well is determined to be unfit for drinking purposes, with the approval of DES, the town health officer may prohibit its use, or may cause the well to be closed. There were no further discussions.

Private Well Water Symposium

Mr. Schofield shared an invitation to a Private Well Water Symposium to be held at the Hyatt Regency in Newport, Rhode Island on December 3 & 4, 2007. Mr. Wunsch mentioned he will be there for presentations on behalf of the NH Geological Survey. Mr. Covell also expressed interest in attending.

Mr. Schofield informed the Membership that DES had formed a Private Well Working Group designed to allow stakeholders and State officials to discuss private well issues and make recommendations to address specific needs. The first meeting was held on 10/5/2007. In support of these meetings, Chairman Cushing asked that the Board members be added to the mailing list for Minutes of the meetings and reports issued by the Group. Mr. Schofield agreed to arrange the notifications.

Upon no further comments by the Board members, Chairman Cushing adjourned the meeting at 11:22 am.

Rene Pelletier
Water Well Board Secretary